

CATS

CAPITOL AREA TIMEX/SINCLAIR
USERS GROUP :Formerly
Prince George's
Timex/Sinclair User's Group

NEWSLETTER

\$1.00 per copy
Please join our club.



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YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

C. P. Snow was a giant in both the English literary and the scientific worlds. Few men are giants in one field, but in both is extraordinary. He wrote a little book - one among many - called "The Two Cultures". In it he decries the fact that scientists and technologists, who make the world work, don't understand the literary types, the lawyers, journalists and preachers who are our politicians and who rule the country - and that the latter group hasn't the slightest idea what scientists are talking about. Much economic and social damage is done through this lack of communication. Of course, there are some, like Snow, who can bridge the gap, but very few can do this.

In our own little world of computers, we suffer the same lack. The technicians who write the User's Guides and software documentation we read have no idea how the nontechnical user's minds work. Thus much technical writing is undecipherable. Mark Fisher is

a C. P. Snow for our group. I am trying to be another but I am very short on technical skills. I am learning how the computer works by learning machine code. And I am learning machine code by teaching it, I hope with some success. The ten or so of us who have struggled thru to some measure of understanding look forward to using the assembler program to do some simple applications, subroutines and modifications of existing programs like PRO/FILE 2068 in the months after Labor Day.

I hope to learn much more about the technical side of the computer when Tom Bent holds my hand while I make an expansion board for the 2068, to which I want to add more memory and a serial port for a modem. Some day I hope to understand the language Tom speaks after he says: Hi!

Right after Labor Day, I want to add the Applications Group activities we have talked about for some time now. Some members want to go more deeply into investment programs. Some

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newcomers want help with a word processor for the T/S 1000 and the 2040 printer. Others want help to format applications for the Data Base or File programs. And the spreadsheets interest some of us for their many potential uses.

The point of this message is to urge you all to become as active as you can, for your own sake and because you can help others, regardless of which of Snows'cultures you come from. Mark needs you to write for the Newsletter. Tom needs to know exactly which hardware projects you want to do. I would like very much for several of you to offer help in planning Applications Meetings. So please give me or Mark or Tom a ring.

John Conger 654-5751

From the Editor

Announcing the August Doldrums Issue

You may notice that this newsletter is lighter than it's been for a year. The reason is simple. If I don't have articles to run, I can't fill our customary 20 pages.

Every time I talk with another computer hobbyist, I learn something new. Each one of you has a unique store of knowledge; the result of your unique interests combined with your unique channels of information. Some of the most active members in the club confront me with new marvels every day--what's wrong with the Timex/Portugal discs, where Dave Higgenbottom works, etc... but, somehow, these bits don't get written up to share with the other members.

By writing of what you've discovered--be it programming tips, hardware projects, program reviews, industry rumors, or philosophical musings--you can share your knowledge with your fellow C.A.T.S. members. Your knowledge, combined with your neighbor's, can mean more than each separate item alone.

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Officialdom

President	John Conger
Vice President	Jules Gesang
Vice President	Tom Bent
Secretary	Sarah Fisher
N/L Editor	Mark Fisher
N/L Paste-Up	Sarah Fisher
N/L Mailing	Jules Gesang

TAPE DUBBING

By Jim MacKenzie

There were some excellent programs demonstrated at the last tape dubbing. Mark Szabo showed a superior tape sketching program for the TS 2068, and promised to give it to the library when he's finished touching up. Several other programs were also given to the library. When I say given I mean copied, not the whole cassette is given.

The TS 1000 library received fourteen small, but fine programs from Mark Fisher. This brings the total to 80 minutes of programs for the TS 1000. Keep up the good work, and please bring your programs for demonstration, and or donation at the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

The big news is that we're going to have a construction fest at 10:00 AM before the meeting. The hardware group will generally be making cartridge boards. As of press time, about 21 people have antied up the \$21.00 for the gold-tipped Oliger EPROM board, and the associated parts. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Tom Bent or myself - this is an ongoing project, and if you don't get in on the September version, there'll be another one later.

Contributors

Aviation Week

Caroline Barasch

Tony Brooks

John Conger

Hank Dickson

Mark Fisher

L.I.S.T.

Brian Little

Jim MacKenzie

Ward Seguin

S.U.M.

Mark Szabo

Times of London

H.E. Weppler

George White



SUBMISSIONS for this newsletter are eagerly solicited. First priority will be given to member's submissions. Publication of material does not transfer rights from the author, in fact, it may establish priority.

Submissions may be reviews, articles on applications, programming techniques, hardware, or anything else you can imagine. Pertinent articles from other publications will also be considered.

Bring material to the meeting, or send it to PO box 725, Bladensburg, MD 20710. I would prefer material to be typed, single spaced, in 3 1/4" columns - but don't break your back: the Xerox doesn't really care. Printouts from the 2040 printer are fine, but, use Radio Shack paper, and don't put scotch tape over the printing.

Permission is hereby granted for reprints of articles in nonprofit user group newsletters. Please give credit to CATS and the author.

CATS Computer Class a Hit With Takoma Park Children

The CATS SWAT team (Special Workers And Teachers) assembled with typical effectiveness the morning of Saturday, August 10 to stage one of its fabled computer literacy classes for a group of attentive 10-to-13-year-old children which had been assembled under the auspices of the Takoma Park Library.

CATS participants began arriving before 9 a.m. at the Takoma Park Municipal Building to set up their Timex/Sinclair gear.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Ellen Robbins, Head Librarian, the Takoma Park Library staff had publicized the class through flyers distributed in the Library as well as through announcements in various city publications. They prepared a leaflet on "User-Friendly Books on Computers for Children". They handled the registration process for the students and obtained the use of the spacious, brightly-lit meeting room in the Municipal Building in which the class was conducted.

The CATS SWAT team provided a broad range of Sinclair circuitry, from a kit-assembled ZX-81 to the latest ROM-switched 2068. Ron Enterline displayed an excellent Commodore color monitor with his 2068, while Evan Evans was thoughtful enough to bring not only his son's T/S 1000 system, but also a backup monitor just in case.

Thanks to the splendid efforts of the CATS members supporting this project (see box), there were eleven working Timex/Sinclair stations available for first-hand computer interaction on the part of the eighteen students.

Hank Dickson opened the session by introducing all the students and CATS participants and by explaining some of the tricks involved in using the special Timex/Sinclair keyboard.

Mark Fisher introduced several of the most commonly used commands associated with the BASIC language and showed how they are used on the Timex/Sinclair.

John Conger talked about binary arithmetic and how a computer adds binary numbers together to get its results.

Hank Dickson illustrated computer logic and flowcharting with the "peanut butter-and-jelly sandwich" exercise, and Mark Fisher finished the presentations by having the students write a simple game program along with him, using BASIC.

Residual time was spent having the CATS members demonstrate their favorite programs to the students.

After a quick bite to eat, the CATS crew packed up their gear and headed to New Carrollton for the general CATS meeting the same afternoon.

All participants agreed that the computer awareness class was an enjoyable and worthwhile undertaking. Many parents asked if they could stay as observers, which they were allowed to do.

"We were particularly glad to be able to reach this fine group of children," remarked Ellen Robbins afterwards. "Hopefully," she added, "we would like to repeat the program in the fall, only this time for adults, many of whom feel left out of new developments such as these."

Should this wish become a reality, the CATS SWAT team would undoubtedly be ready and willing to lend its help and assistance in making the reality as informative and as enjoyable as possible!!

CATS SWAT Team (Special Workers and Teachers)

August 10, 1985

TOM BENT	Columbia
JOHN CONGER	Chevy Chase
HANK DICKSON	Lanham
RON ENTERLINE	Rockville
EVAN EVANS	Seabrook
JACK FIELDS	Harford County
MARK FISHER	Takoma Park
SARAH FISHER	Takoma Park
SY FELLERMAN	Kensington
LEONARD GODET	Chevy Chase
AKIN OLOWOFOYEKU	Hyattsville

N/L DEADLINE.....	MEETING DATE
	September 14
September 20	October 12
October 18	November 9
November 15	December 14
December 20	

INTERFACE 3

Interface 3 (not made by Sinclair) is one of two hardware solutions currently being offered to the problem of converting tape based software to Spectrum microdrives. With an increasing number of mass storage devices now being offered for the Spectrum and TS2068 many users are now interested in transferring tape based software to such devices.

Us Timex-Sinclair users have to face the fact that there will never be more than a tiny percentage of software on anything other than tape. For Sinclair Microdrive owners Interface 3 seems to offer a complete solution to this problem.

There are software based techniques for transferring software from tape to microdrive, however the ones that are easy to use don't seem to work with recent software and those that do are very difficult to use since they require a lot of user intervention. Interface 3 by contrast is very easy to use and can transfer everything to microdrive. To operate Interface 3 you plug it into the back of Interface 1, then load the tape you wish to transfer to microdrive, then at a break in the program press the red button on the top of the interface. Pressing any key on your Spectrum or TS2068 will then dump the whole computer memory and Z80 registers onto tape in the form of a conversion file. Now you load the conversion software into the computer along with the conversion file. When this has been done a working version of the program may be saved to microdrive.

So far I have only mentioned saving programs to microdrive, however Interface 3 may also be used to make back up copies onto tape. In fact even if you do not have or do not intend to obtain microdrives you may still wish to purchase Interface 3 for making backup tape copies. To do this you will also need a Spectrum adaptor board so your total investment would be about \$90 (about \$55 for Interface 3 and \$35 for the adaptor board). Since there are alternative cheaper methods of making backup tape copies this may not suit many users. However Interface 3 will make backups of any program, something difficult to achieve with recent Spectrum programs.

I discovered that it is also

possible to make working tape copies of microdrive programs with Interface 3. This is not mentioned anywhere in the instructions.

Will interface 3 truly enable you to transfer any program? The answer seems to be yes but I have found one small problem.

When you transfer the final program to tape or microdrive the middle third of the screen is used by the transfer software. This is not a problem on most programs since they can usually be saved on a screen not required when the program is run, such as the loading screens. Most programs have to help pass the time while the program loads from tape. However I have one program (Apocalypse) which uses the map screen it starts with, and while the microdrive version runs it is not much use without the middle third of the map.

One is given the option of not saving the loading screen when using Interface 3 and since part of it is not saved anyway I usually do not save the screen. The advantage of this is that then one can usually get two programs on the 85 to 90K of space on a microdrive cartridge.

There is another hardware device called Mirage Microdriver which does the same job as Interface 3. The Microdriver has its software on Eprom so in principle it is easier to use. However I found Interface 3 easy to use and I think it has one advantage over the Microdriver. Backup copies made using Interface 3 will run on their own without the interface attached but copies made using the Mirage Microdriver will only run with the Microdriver attached.

Interface 3 can be obtained from the English Micro Connection or ordered directly from the manufacturers in Britain. Contact me if you want more details.

TONY BROOKS
972-4541 (eve.)
258-2554 (day)

UNCLASSIFIED

WANTED: FORTH ROM for T/S 1000. Jake Brodsky
726-6335

FOR SALE: ZON-X sound generator for the T/S 1000.
New in box. \$25.00 589-7407

FOR SALE: DIGITAL dual disc drive unit: 2 SSDD TEAC
drives, power supply, and case. New condition,
compatible with AERCO I/F. \$210.00 589-7407

2068 TO SPECTRUM CROSS-REFERENCE

by H. E. Weppier

Ed. note: The following was submitted as an aid to John Conger's machine code class. It is printed here because I feel that it has a more general appeal. Other versions of this list have appeared before: Mike Morris of CATS worked this out, and the LIST group, and Syntax, have both run versions. To my knowledge, this is the first version to be run in one installment. MF

I find it particularly interesting and useful to call the routines stored in the ROM. There is some information on this in the 2068 technical manual, but the most useful source is Logan and O'Hara's book on the Spectrum ROM disassembly.

Of course Logan/O'Hara cannot be used directly, because the memory references only apply to the Spectrum. Consequently, I have prepared the attached "ROM Index." This provides direct reference from most of the routines mentioned in the Technical Manual to the Spectrum routines.

I find the index useful in two ways: First, if I wish to learn more about the contents or use of a routine listed in the Technical Manual, I can look up the corresponding routine in Logan/O'Hara. In many cases the routines are slightly different, because the jumps and calls are to different memory locations. In some cases there are other differences, but in each case the intended use seems to be the same.

Second, if I find a routine in Logan/O'Hara which looks useful, I can usually find it in the 2068 by interpolating in the index. For example, if I wish to use the routine called "GO_TO_2" at 1E73h in Logan/O'Hara, I find in the index "JUMP" and "FIX_U1" which are below and above the desired location. By interpolation I conclude that the routine must be at or near 7933h in the 2068.

While I cannot attend your machine code class, I am attaching the index with the hope that it may be useful to some of those in the class.

BA36	1078	BEEP	03F8
0500	1280	SENDTV	09F4
053A	1338	P_LFT	0A23
0554	1364	P_RT	0A3D
0566	1382	P_NL	0A4F
05B2	1458	SET_AT	0A9B
05F3	1523	STTVCU	0ADC
061A	1562	LDTVCU	0B03
0710	1808	ATTBYT	0BDB
073F	1855	PUTHE5	0C0A
0776	1910	PR_TV2	0C3B
0790	1936	TVFUL?	0C55
07C1	1985	ERR5	0C86
0880	2184	R_ATT5	0D4D
08A6	2214	K_CLS	0D6B
08A9	2217	CLLHS	0D6E
08EA	2282	CLS	0DAF
0914	2324	SETCUR	0DD9
0914	2324	SETTVC	0DD9
0939	2361	SCRL	0DFE
097F	2431	CLS_B	0E44
0A02	2562	K_DUMP	0EAC
0A23	2595	DUMPPR	0ECD
0A35	2613	CLPR	0EDF
0A4A	2634	PRSCAN	0EF4
0A82	2690	EDIT_K	0F2C
0AE7	2791	INSA	0F81
0B7E	2942	DELSYM	1016
0BFD	3069	DEL_K	1097
0C0E	3086	IN_K	10A8
0C83	3203	ECHO	111D
0D00	3341	DESLUG	11A7
0D1D	3357	K_NEU	11B7
0D31	3377	INIT	11CB
0D82	3458	NEU	1219
0E2F	3631	LED18	12A9
0E8D	3725	LED4	1303
11AA	4522	CHINIT	15AF
11C1	4545	SHINIT	15C6
11CF	4559	RDCH	15D4
11E1	4577	INCH	15E6
11EA	4586	PUTDIG	15EF
11ED	4589	SENDCH	15F2
1230	4656	SELECT	1601
123D	4669	ERRO	160E
1248	4680	SEL_HL	1615
1288	4792	INS1	1652
128B	4795	INSERT	1655
12CA	4810	RENGSZ	1664
1324	4900	GET_LN	1695
132D	4909	LCU2	169E
133F	4927	CLEL	1680
134E	4942	X_CALC	16BF
1354	4948	RESET	16C5
1363	4963	X_T_HL	16D4
136B	4971	SEARCH	16DC
139F	5023	CLOSE	16E5
13A8	5032	RSTSTR	16EE
13BE	5054	CLCHAN	1701
142A	5162	OPEN	1736
1465	5221	OPCHAN	175D
14E1	5345	LIST	1795
1541	5441	K_LLST	17F5
1545	5445	K_LIST	17F9
15A1	5537	PUT_SR	1855
15AC	5548	LPO	1860
15C9	5577	PUT	187D
160D	5645	FLASHA	18C1
162D	5677	PR_CUR	18E1
165B	5723	NEXT_L	190F
1668	5736	DE_HL	191C
16D6	5846	FIND_L	196E
16E8	5864	CP_BC	1980
16F0	5872	SUBLIN	1988
16F3	5875	SUBLN1	198B
1720	5920	RECLEN	1988
174D	5965	DEL_DE	19E5
1750	5968	DELREC	19E8

ROM INDEX

2068			SPECTRUM
HEX	DEC	NAME	HEX
0000	0	PLUGIN	0000
0010	16	URCH	0010
004F	79	PHLAF	004F
0055	85	LE3	0055
0074	116	NEXTCH	0074
0077	119	NC_HL	0077
0078	120	TC_HL	0078
0098	152	TOKENS	0095
0227	551	KSCAN	0205
0280	688	K_SCAN	028E
02E1	737	UPD_K	02BF
035C	860	K_BASE	031E
0371	881	CHCODE	0333
03F3	1011	PARP	0385

Simple Interest Computing

Program for the 2068

The following program calculates the interest you will earn if you deposit money in a bank in one of two ways. The first method computes the interest on a fixed amount for an interest rate, compounding interval, and amount invested that you specify. The second computes the interest earned and money available at the end of a term when regular, fixed amount deposits are made.

Ward R. Seguin

5 REM Variables

E- Earnings
 I- Investment
 INT- Fixed interest rate
 CI- Compounding intervals
 per year
 YR,MO- Investment Period
 in years and months
 TOT- Total investment and
 earnings
 DEP- Regular equal deposit
 amounts
 NO- Number of deposits per
 year
 TI- Total investment

```

10 PRINT : PRINT : PRINT : PRINT : PRINT
15 PRINT "          MENU"
20 PRINT : PRINT
25 PRINT "1.  Interest on fixed investment"
30 PRINT
35 PRINT "2.  Interest on regular deposits"
40 PRINT : PRINT "3.  Exit program"
41 INPUT A: IF A=2 THEN GO TO 500
42 IF A=3 THEN CLEAR : PRINT A
T 15,1:"STOP PROGRAM, NORMAL EXIT": STOP
200 REM -Interest on fixed investment
205 CLEAR
210 PRINT "Enter investment"
220 INPUT I: PRINT I
230 PRINT "Enter interest rate"
235 PRINT "      (in percent)"
240 INPUT INT: PRINT INT;: PRINT " %"
250 PRINT "Enter compounding"
260 PRINT "      intervals/year"
270 INPUT CI: PRINT CI
    
```

```

280 PRINT "Enter investment "
285 PRINT "      period"

290 PRINT
295 PRINT "      Years  ";
300 INPUT YR: PRINT YR
310 PRINT "      Months ";
320 INPUT MO: PRINT MO: PRINT
330 REM -Calculate E
335 LET YRR=(YR*12+MO)/12
336 LET INT=INT/100
340 LET E=I*((1+INT/CI)^(CI*YR))-I
345 LET E=(INT (E*100))/100
350 LET TOT=I+E
360 PRINT "Interest earned ";: PRINT E: PRINT
370 PRINT "Total money ";: PRINT TOT
400 GO TO 1
500 REM - Interest on regular deposits.
501 CLEAR
510 PRINT "Enter regular"
515 PRINT "      deposit amounts"
520 INPUT DEP: PRINT DEP
530 PRINT "No. of deposits"
540 INPUT NO: PRINT NO
550 PRINT "Investment period"
570 PRINT "      Years"
580 INPUT YR: PRINT YR
590 PRINT "      Months"
600 INPUT MO: PRINT MO
610 LET YRR=(YR*12+MO)/12
620 PRINT "Enter interest rate"
630 INPUT INT: PRINT INT;: PRINT " %"
635 LET INT=INT/100
640 REM - Calculations
650 LET P=(((1+INT/NO)^(NO*YRR))-1)/(INT/NO)
660 LET E=DEP*(P-NO*YRR)
665 PRINT
667 LET E=(INT (E*100))/100
670 PRINT "Earnings"
675 PRINT E
680 PRINT "Total money"
690 LET TOT=E+ DEP*NO*YRR: PRINT T TOT
695 PRINT "      available"
800 GO TO 1
    
```

Tidbit Time

When Mark Szabo visited us from Cincinnati, he promised CATS a copy of his excellent graphics utility for our club library, as soon as he has finished polishing it up.

In the meantime, he left us with this tidbit:

```

20 SOUND 7,7;8,16;9,16;10,16;
12,200;13,10
30 FOR i=0 TO 31 STEP 2: SOUND
6,i: NEXT i: PRINT AT 0,0;i;" ":
NEXT i: FOR i=37 TO 0 STEP -2:
PRINT AT 0,0;i;" ":SOUND 6,i:
NEXT i: GO TO 30
    
```

VOICE SYNTHESIZING PART 1

A few years ago voice synthesis was more a dream than reality. Thanks to the current technology two IC's are readily available. They are the Votrax SC-01A and the SPO256.

All voice synthesizers use phonemes (speech sounds) to generate words. This means that the voice synthesizer sees words as sounds not as letters. Also sounds of letters change depending on their location and grouping with other letters. The word hello appears as HH EH LL AX OW PA3 (PA= PAUSE) to the SPO256 and as H EH1 L L O PA0 to the SC-01A.

The Votrax SC-01A uses 64 phonemes in seven categories—the first six cover voiced, fricatives, and nasal sounds, while the seventh is silence. There are 127 preprogrammed words in the resident ROM and can access EPROMS for user programmed words. By using preprogrammed words one can access a word with a byte instead of 5 bytes as in the case of the word hello. Sound can also be addressed so you can generate words from BASIC programs using POKE. It also has programmable pitch control and inflection control for a more human sounding voice. The Votrax SC-01A is available through Advanced Computer Products; P.O. Box 17329; Irvine, CA. 92713; for \$39.95.

The SPO256 Speech Processor also has seven different sound categories. The resident 16K ROM contains 57 sounds and 5 pauses. The SPO256 can access upto 491K of ROM for word storage. Since there is no words stored in the resident ROM only sounds can be accessed. This means that to generate a word you may have to use upto 20 bytes. The SPO256 is available at any Radio Shack Store for \$12.95.

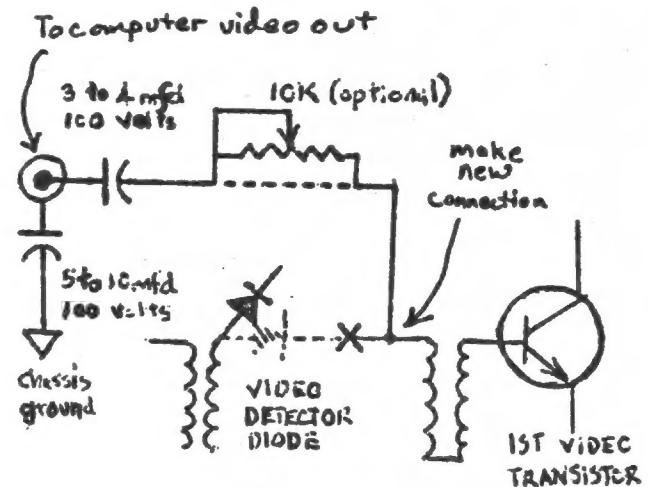
I am currently designing a speech synthesizer using the SPO256 for the TS1000 and TS2068. In future newsletters I will discuss the theory of word generation using the SPO256. Once I complete the circuit I will put it in the newsletter. Then I will discuss a short machine code program that will enable you to use the speech processor in BASIC programs.

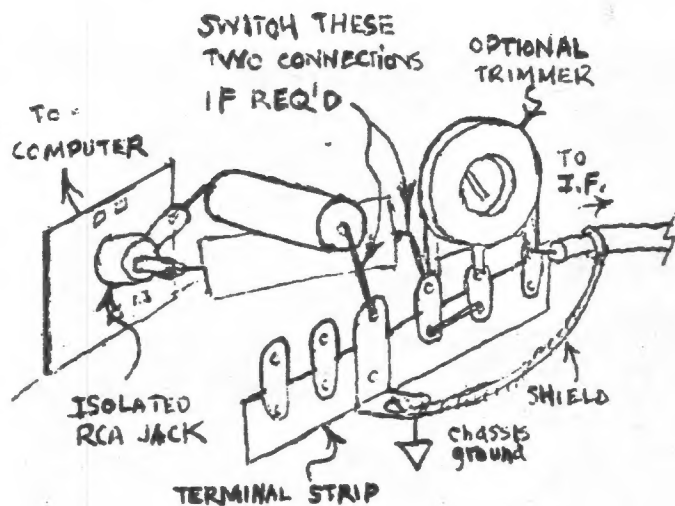
Brian Little

DON'T Convert Your TV into a Computer Monitor

It's not too difficult to convert any B&W or recent color television into a direct-video monitor for your 2068. Being a T.V. technician by trade, I was not satisfied with the hashy-trashy display on my new computer since my old ZX-81 had a UHF RF modulator and put out a very clean picture. I found a 12" B&W transistor junker at the shop that only needed a fresh CRT, put in a tube from another abandoned set and converted it.

The most important fact about almost all T.V.'s today is that the CHASSIS GROUND IS NOT EARTH GROUND. In order to eliminate the necessity of an expensive power transformer, the chassis ground is A.C. ground and can have up to 117 volts A.C. potential to earth ground. This means we have to use capacitors for both ground and to couple video into the set. I found that 10 mfd was more than enough to eliminate any tearing in the video due to the lack of a real ground. Use 3 or 4 mfd. for the signal capacitor. I modified my set into a monitor only, but it is possible to add a switch to cut off one of the I.F. transistors and make a TV/monitor.





Start out by using a schematic or other means and find the video detector diode and the first video transistor. The monitor output of your computer is injected after the video detector and before the first video amp. Mount an RCA jack installed in a plastic card next to a place where you can cut a hole in the cabinet. A cardboard template that fits over one of the controls that projects out of the back makes

locating the hole in the cabinet easy. Mount a terminal strip near the jack and run the two capacitors between it and the jack. Connect one between chassis ground and the outside of the RCA jack. Connect the other capacitor between the center of the jack and the center of the shielded cable. Run the shielded cable into the I.F. and solder the center in the hole left after you have pulled up an end of the video detector diode. After you make certain that both parts of the jack are isolated, it's time to switch your computer's cable from RF to the monitor jack and hook up the set and see clean direct video. Now, if the picture is negative and flipping, the fix is easy. Your set has negative video so just switch the connections of the coupling capacitors. If the signal seems to be too strong or there are double images; adding a 10K ohm trim pot should take care of it. On a color TV you can re-center the tint by using the proper adjusting tool on the burst transformer. If you're adjusting this transformer, then the slightest adjustment makes a huge difference in the tint. If the color is weak, the ACC/Killer trim pot will take care of that. I found that it's also good to disconnect the speaker and replace it with a 10 ohm 1 watt dummy load.

This conversion works for both B&W or color sets. I'm using the 12" set I modified right now to write this article. The display on it is as good as commercial monitors I've seen being driven by 2068s.

- John Monkus

INTERNAL STOP-WATCH

In revising programs or comparing techniques I often use the System Variable FRAMES to measure elapsed time.

Near the start of the program temporarily insert:

```
9 POKE 23672,0:POKE 23673,0
```

That will reset the counters to 0. They will advance one unit per 1/60.1145 second.

Near the end of the program insert:

```
999 PRINT PEEK 23672 + 256:PEEK 23673.
```

For direct comparisons just note the number of units for each trial. If it is desired to measure directly in seconds, use:

```
999 PRINT INT((PEEK 23672 + 256:PEEK 23673 + .5):100/60.1145 + .5)/100
```

This provides averaging, since the counter jumps in 16ms steps while the elapsed time is continuous. Then the result is rounded to two decimal places. It should be accurate to about .01 second.

H.E.Ueppler

PARTS LIST

RCA jack mounted on a plastic card
 3 to 4 mfd capacitor @ 100 volts
 5 to 10 mfd capacitor @ 100 volts
 shielded audio cable
 5 or 6 lug terminal strip
 (optional) 10K trim pot
 (optional) 10 ohm 1 watt resistor

Lifted from S.U.M, 5/85

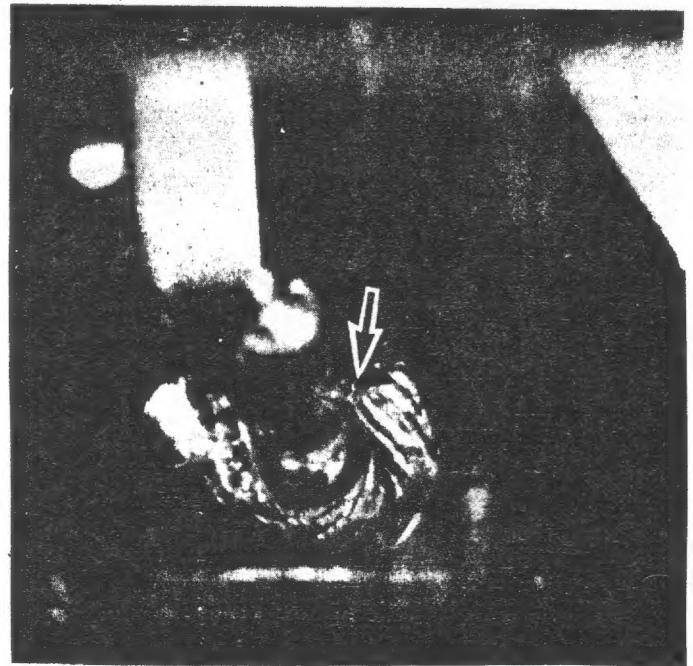
NAVY TEAR-DOWN INSPECTIONS, AND YOU

Data and info from Aviation Week & Space Technology, June 3, 1985.

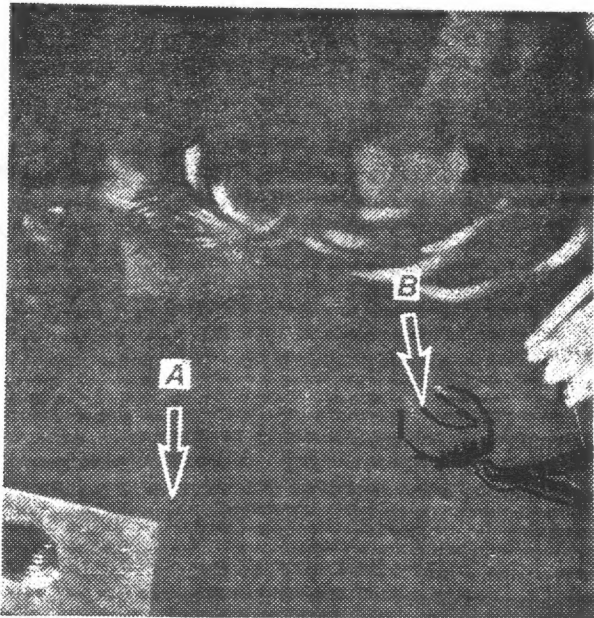
The Navy has conducted tear-down inspections of missiles delivered by Hughes as certified good weapons. While the Phoenix program has not suffered an exceptionally high failure rate, a number of defects were identified. The problem of these hidden defects may be a pervasive one that extends to a variety of military programs.

Aside from the political implications for Hughes, the details of what was found are of interest to us as computer hobbyists and amateur electronic technicians.

A number of defects and faults were found. The good news is that Aviation Week didn't report any mechanical engineering or production defects. The bad news is that there were a wide variety of electrical sins concealed within the Phoenix's sleek skin. However, the faults discovered by the Navy can serve as a textbook of items to attend to as we modify our computers and their peripherals.



This unsoldered wire provided sufficient electrical conductivity to pass factory tests, but in a harsh missile environment it is a likely source of weapon failure.

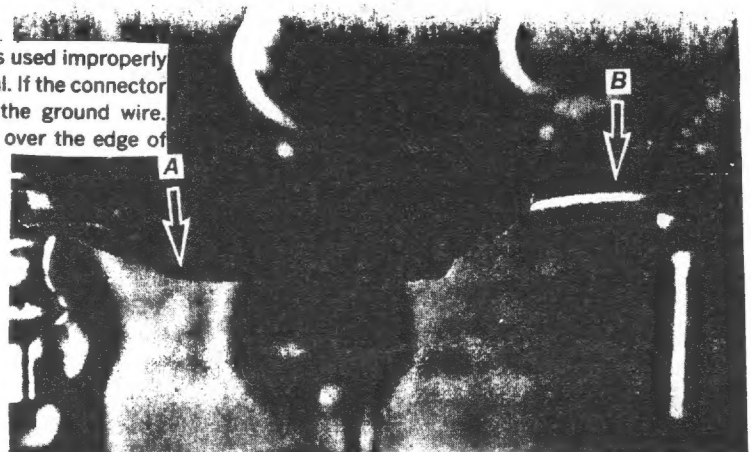


One of two screws used to secure two halves of an electrical connector (B) is used improperly to provide an electrical ground connection instead of using a separate terminal. If the connector is separated during maintenance, the operator may forget to reconnect the ground wire. Another potential source of failure is the routing of unsupported cable (A) over the edge of metal where it can chafe during vibration.

How the problem has developed

About half of the problems found stem from inadequate attention to good design practices. Some of these stem from a false sense of economy, due partly to tight schedules. For example, during full scale development, engineers often make minor changes in avionic circuits. This may require the addition of a few components and connections that weren't planned when the boards were laid out.

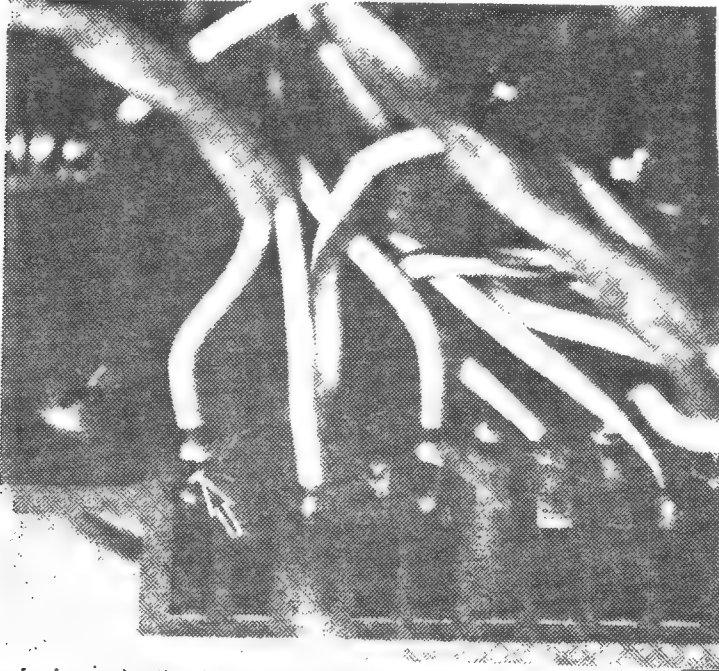
Diode added to the circuit board after it was laid out is cemented to the board (A), where it will be subjected to greater than necessary vibration stress. Additionally, one of its leads (B) has too little clearance from the board and could short out during operational use.



It has been proposed that there should be an upper limit of five jumpers allowed on each board--if that number is exceeded, the board should be redesigned.

The faults themselves

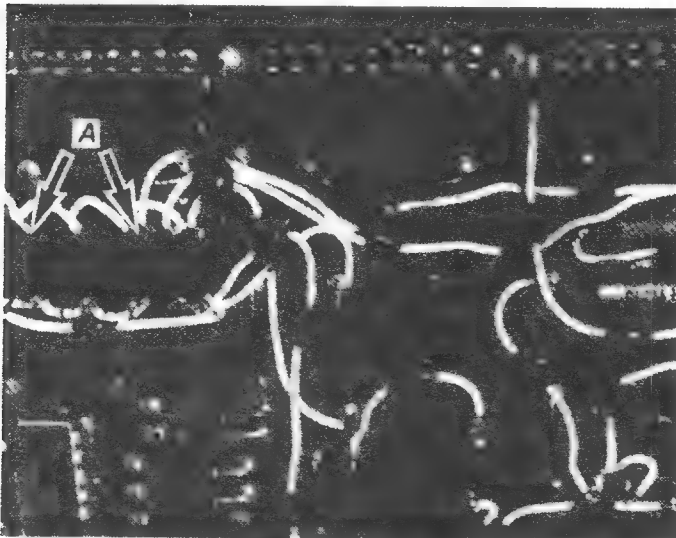
The tear-downs were conducted with Hughes' full



Use of a bare wire that bridges another is a bad practice that can result in a short circuit.

cooperation. "After the shock, Hughes has put in a tremendous effort to resolve the problem" Michael LaVersa, director of quality assurance in the Office of Naval Acquisition Support.

During teardown inspections, LaVersa said, "We found an appalling amount of junk--blobs of loose solder, small pieces of loose wire and metal flakes that can cause short circuits."



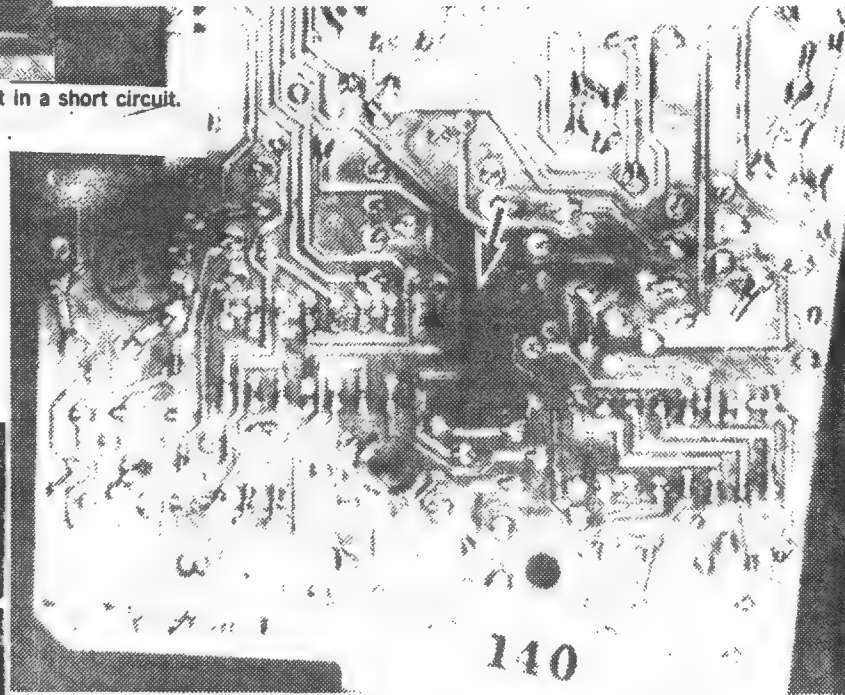
Navy teardown inspections of missiles and other weapon systems have revealed poor workmanship, but a number result from poor design practices, as shown by this printed circuit board. The numerous white wires reflect design changes made since the circuit board originally was laid out. Also, a microcircuit (arrows A) was added and installed in make-shift fashion by cementing its backside to the circuit board with its terminals facing out. This and accompanying photos were taken of hardware that had been delivered or was ready for delivery to the Navy.

He noted that inspection revealed wires that were never soldered to terminals but which passed functional test because they were tinned and partially wrapped around a terminal. Defective solder joints also are encountered frequently.

Other problems are due more to poor engineering design. For example, LaVersa displayed a photo of a circuit board where an insulating sleeve had been charred. The design was faulty because it required the workman to insert the tip of the hot iron carefully into a recessed well, which was extremely difficult to do without touching the sleeve.

A more widespread problem, the "dead bug" is one in which a component has been added after the circuit board has been designed so that there is no prepared socket to hold it. Instead, it is cemented to the board with its leads pointing upward, resembling a dead bug. Sometimes the dead bug problem is compounded when the leads of the chip are used as support terminals to which other components are attached.

Some more subtle sources of potential failure are aluminum foil nameplates that had begun to peel off, and devices with gold-plated leads that have not been tinned before soldering, which could lead to embrittlement.



A more obvious design deficiency was found on one circuit board on which a resistor was being run far beyond its rating. The result was that heat had scorched the circuit board and caused nearby solder joints to reflow.

These photos, and the resultant publicity, are being used to motivate a number of defense contractors to make greater efforts to maintain quality.

MF/Aviation Week

Sinclair: the crucial week



Sinclair: fighting on

by Richard Brooks

SIR Clive Sinclair is facing what could be the most critical week of his controversial career - a week which might well make or finally break the computer entrepreneur.

After one white knight, in the shape of Robert Maxwell, proprietor of *The Mirror*, suddenly dropped his £12m rescue of Sinclair Research on Friday, another, Dixons the retailers, turned up and tomorrow begins a three month sales blitz of Sinclair products.

Last night Sinclair was putting a brave face on the turnaround. He said that the £10m Dixons contract was "immensely exciting" and that "we can now view the future with complete confidence". He dismissed suggestions that his survival depended on a takeover bid. But crucial questions remain.

Will Dixons be the saviour, Sinclair so ardently wants? And why did Maxwell, after sewing up a deal back in June, which was splashed with great pride across the front page of his newspaper, then unstitch it? The undoing of the deal only rated a small story on the *Mirror's* page two yesterday.



Maxwell: bowing out

"Sinclair is the undisputed brand leader in computers, and as the country's leading retailer of computers, we are delighted to have signed this major contract," says Mark Souhami, Dixon's chief executive speaking from his holiday in Venice.

Dixons says that it has bought approximately 160,000 computers, and TVs to sell in the lead up to Christmas. "We have been negotiating with Sir Clive for some time, and we were not going to give any publicity to this contract, which is a contract in the normal course of business," added Souhami.

Sinclair's Spectrum, its main product introduced in April 1982, has this year had sales of about 130,000. The QL, on sale for the past 15 months, has probably only sold 60,000 in that period. Sales for both products are considerably down on what had been expected. Even so Sinclair does still have about 40% of the home computer market for machines under £500.

Sinclair Research's results are expected next month. They are likely to show a sizeable loss on sales of about £100m. The firm now hopes that sales in the current financial year



Souhami buying in

will reach £75m, and will produce a return to profit.

"The Maxwell deal was one needed for an emergency," says Sinclair. "Now that emergency is passed with the Dixon's deal which takes the bulk of our unsold stock. We do not need another firm to take us over. What I am looking for however is a group of investors to put up some more money."

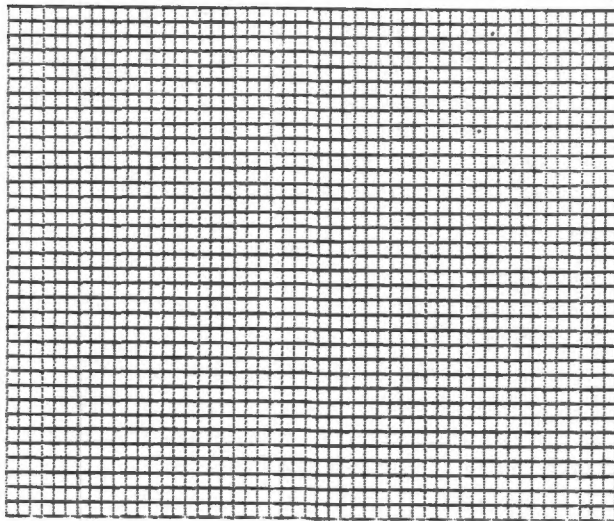
Maxwell first announced a deal with Sinclair in June after a deal, admittedly conditional, was put together at a party at Headington Hall, Maxwell's council-owned Oxford home.

But within just a few days of the conditional deal it was becoming clear that Sinclair's accounts needed much more careful analysis. The accountants, Coopers & Lybrand, were sent in and their report, which was received by Maxwell's merchant bank, Hill Samuel, in July did not make pleasant reading. It confirmed unsold stocks of £35m, and operating losses. More important, it concluded that the prospects for Sinclair Research were poor. It would be a gamble for Maxwell therefore to continue with the takeover.

It is now clear that when Maxwell had first made the deal for once his heart had ruled his head. Maxwell, a very shrewd businessman, liked Sinclair, and thought that one great Englishman could bail out another great Englishman in his hour of need. In reality Maxwell too is nearing his own hour of need. He needs cash for other plans, and this was just another reason for pulling out. Last week he raised £80m through National Westminster Bank in loans. He needs the money to finance £60m worth of new colour printing presses for the *Mirror* Group, which itself is not doing well, with an expected profit this year of only about £2m on a turnover of more than £200m.

Sunday Times
of London
August 11, 1985

Graph Paper



```

10 FOR x=0 TO 255 STEP 5
20 PLOT x,0
30 DRAW 0,175
40 NEXT x
50 FOR y=0 TO 175 STEP 5
60 PLOT 0,y
70 DRAW 255,0
80 NEXT y
    
```

*10 Poked 10,10: xxx ✓
 15 Fw I = 145 ✓
 20 Lot 2 = 45 ✓
 30 Next I ✓*

On simple graphing jobs like this, the DRAW function works much faster than PLOTting it. This one takes 5 seconds, as compared with 3 minutes for a PLOT program. Carolyn Barasch

ERROR: 23681 IS USED

The 2068 User Manual is in error on page 264 where it shows that memory location 23681 is "Not used".

Location 23681 is the MSB companion to 23680 and relates to the printer buffer. If 23681 is poked with anything other than 91 while the printer is in use the next line on the printer will be blank.

A safer place for temporary storage of a single byte is 23747.

H.E.Ueppler

Speech Synthesis

L.I.S.T. reports that the September '85 Computer Digest section of Radio Electronics magazine has an article by Jason Kinser on low tech "Voice Reproduction" for the 1000. You can reproduce your voice using his short m/c routine and some very simple, already assembled hardware from Radio Shack.

Cryptogram

George White, a the author of the club library program CRYPTOPAD, has given us five months of seasonal cryptograms. Enjoy!

CRYPTOGRAM:
KAYO CLASSX PSNITC CNZ WAYZ KNOW
LSFJRWYI XHWYINLZ, TS WAYZ FYNO
CWIRLWRIYT NCCYFPXZ XNODRNDY SI
NO HOTHMMYIYOW DNFY SM "JSOD"?

SCROLLING

Do you get tired of the incredibly slow and jerky SCROLL command on the TS1000? Take heart true programmers. The following machine code program will not only permit you to SCROLL up It will also permit SCROLL down, SCROLL left, and SCROLL right.

After you type in the program SAVE it. Then RUN the program. The program is then stored safely above RAMTOP so that you can use it with any program. To use the SCROLLs use this line in your program:

```

LET Z=USR X
where X=32521 for SCROLL up
        32542 for SCROLL down
        32566 for SCROLL right
        32584 for SCROLL left
    
```

```

1 REM 12345678901234567890123
45678901234567890123456789012345
67890123456789012345678901234567
89012345678901
2 LET A$="21097F220440EB01550
0219240EDB0C9ED5B0C4013212100190
1F602EDB006202B7110FCC92A0C4011F
602424B19EB21210019EBEDB80620237
110FCC90176172A0C401600237EB9280
4725718F710F3C90176192A104016002
B7EB92804725718F710F3C9"
3 FAST
4 LET A=16514
5 FOR B=1 TO LEN A$-1 STEP 2
6 POKE A,16+CODE A$(B)+CODE A
$(B+1)-476
7 LET A=A+1
8 NEXT B
9 RAND USR 16514
10 NEW
    
```

BRIAN LITTLE

CRYPTOGRAM Solution:

WHEN SCHOOL BOARDS SAY THEY WANT COMPUTER LITERACY, DO THEY MEAN STRUCTURED ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE OR AN INDIFFERENT GAME OF "PONG"?

SOFTAID

Feed The World



There is a cassette tape available featuring ten top hit game programs from England, for the Spectrum computer. All proceeds from the sale of the software go to the BAND-AID TRUST FUND to aid starving Ethiopians. The Band-Aid project was first implemented when British Pop Music Stars recorded and donated a Christmas song for the effort. The "greatest hits" tape is called SOFTAID, and contains the following games: Spellbound (Beyond), Starbike (The Edge), Kokotoni Wilf (Elite), The Pyramid (Fantasy), Horace Goes Ski-ing (Melbourne House/Psion), Gilligan's Gold (Ocean), Ant Attack (Quicksilva), 3D Tank Duel (Real-Time), Sorcery (Virgin), and Jack and the Beanstalk (Thor). On the "flip" side of the tape is the recorded version of the song "Do They Know It's Christmas?"

Rod Cousens of Quicksilva organized the software relief project, and hopes that it will raise some £200,000 for the Ethiopians. Here in the U.S. the SOFTAID Spectrum tape is available from Susan Ziegler, Software Services, 14307 BenBrush, San Antonio, TX 78248, for a mere \$6.25 plus \$2.00 for first class p & h. Bob Dyl of the English Micro Connection, 15 Kilburn Ct., Newport, RI 02840 will also have substantial supplies of SOFTAID shortly. The British software producers have been very generous in their efforts. The tape is very reasonably priced, and everyone should obtain their own copy...pirated versions won't help dying people one bit. Note: There is also a version for the Commodore 64.

Lifted from L.I.S.T, 7/85

continued from p.2

Information Received

A 2 page letter from the T.S. Connection, 3832 Watterson Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45227; confirming what was printed here last month. They state: "the T/S Connection is NOT and has NEVER been an authorized service facility of the Timex Corporation." Further, "that Timex Products Service Department in Little Rock continues to do In and Out of Warranty service."

They blame the strange, simultaneous announcement of their status as sole authorized Timex service distributor on "overzealous editors of newsletters, in their desire to feed information to their hungry readers...." If you detect a bit of defensiveness in this editor, you may be right (and I never printed the story).

Last Meeting:

If this issue seems to be thinner than before, last month's general meeting was not. We had a full bill, with John Conger demonstrating binary arithmetic, and Tom Bent programming an EPROM live. In addition, we had a surprise guest from the Cincinnati TSUG, Mark Szabo - a bright and pleasant 17-year-old, who demonstrated his excellent graphics program in the back, and gave us an extempore talk about the Cincinnati User's Group. All the while, Jim MacKenzie ran the tape library concession in the back room.

Newsletter Digest

From September LIST, P.O. Box 438, Centerport NY 11721-0438, a full issue, complete with a seven page article on cassette data storage (the author, Cedrick Bastiaans, apologises that he wasn't able to reproduce his scanning electron micrograph images of tape surface in the Xerox). He does provide oscilloscope traces that graphically demonstrate catastrophic dropouts due to poor tape, dust, scratches, fingerprints, creases, and more.

From the May-August Sincus News, P.O. Box 523, Owego, NY 13827, comes an apology for missing an issue, a nice pocket review of current Timex publications, a listing of NY timex BBS numbers, and last, but not least, a construction article by Wes Brzozowski on a T/S 1000 keyboard that plugs on the back-bus, capped by a further installment of his series on T/S 2068 interrupt handling.

From the May-June TAS-BAM U.G., P.O. Box 644, Safety Harbor, FL 33572, comes news that the FCC has approved the QL (credited to Syncware-News), and reviews of the Rotronics Wafadrive and a word processor that accompanies it. In addition to a number of other supplier's addresses and publications.

From the August Hampton Roads T/S U.G., 17 Rex Ave., Portsmouth, VA 23702-2925, a recap of Sinclair's recent ups and downs condensed from CATS articles (see the latest chapter in this saga in this issue), and a nine page listing of Timex vendors.

From July SinLink (alias Timelinez), 6675 Clifford Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014-4530, comes a collection of photo-reduced newsletters and letters that is even tinier than LIST's usual collection - but there's a lot of information hiding in there.

From Summer QTS, 4 Butterfly Dr., Hauppauge, NY 11788, comes a READ/DATA routine for the 1000 (not as good as mine [March, 1985]), and a number of BASIC tutorial articles.

WANTED: Assistant Editor. Learn the joys of paste-up; be responsible for perhaps four camera-ready pages per month, assembled from submitted articles. Fun! Glory! POWER! Mislead the public! commit libel from invulnerable position! (remember Absence of Malice?)

Several times we have brought to your attention products, & services which merit your investigation. Here are a couple of the publications we have recently read, and invite you to do the same:

TIME DESIGNS-6 issues a year for \$15

Over 30 pages in last issue, full of interesting articles- more for the novice/intermediate user but any avid user would enjoy. TIME DESIGNS, 29722 Mult Rd. Colto[®] OR 97017

TSS Newsnotes- 12 times a year for \$10

Over 14 pages-like a newsletter, news, ideas and tips, includes Q&A. If you don't have a US down the block, then this is good. T.S. Services, PO Box 15214, Red Bank, TN 37415-0214

T-S Horizons- 12 times a year- \$15 a year

About 30 pages-I'm looking at last August's issue-again more for the average die hard 2068 user, and they been around since 1984. T-S Horizons, 2002 Summit St. Portsmouth, OH 45662

SyncWare News - 6 issues a year-\$16.95

More for the advanced user, well written and full of interesting ideas and articles on how and why the 2068 works. Has 1000 info! SyncWare News, PO Box 64, Jefferson, NH 03583

Quarters- 4 times a year, \$8

Advertised as being on the use of BASIC. Have not yet seen one. WMJ DATA SYSTEMS, 4 Butterfly Dr. Hauppauge, NY 11788

S.U.M.-Sinclair/Timex User's Magazine-12 issues for \$12

About 14 pages an issue. Usually has a couple in depth articles on hardware do it yourselfers would enjoy. Very GOOD VALUE! SUM Magazine, 3224 NW 30 Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605

SYNTAX, ? a year, for \$48

One of the oldest publications since early 1981 in the USE of Sinclair machines-was THE magazine. Not seen much lately. SYNTAX, The Harvard Group, RD 2, Box 457, Harvard, MA 01451

Sinclair 8-85

Congratulations,
C.A.T.S.
Success in the coming year!

A fellow computerer

Capitol Area Timex/Sinclair Users' Group
P.O. Box 725
Bladensburg, MD 20710

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Home _____ Office _____ ZIP _____

Memberships - \$15.00 (family/individual); make checks payable to C.A.T.S.
If family membership, please list family members participating:

Occupation _____

Ham Radio call sign _____ Equipment _____

ZK 80 _____ HAM size _____

EA 80 _____ Full keyboard _____

ZK 81 _____ Printer _____

TS 1000 _____ type _____

TS 2000 _____ other interface _____

Special interest use for computers: (e.g., Games, ham radio interface, business, other, etc.) _____

Languages: Basic _____ Other _____

Machine _____

No. of years computer experience _____

What committees would you like to serve on? _____

Comments: Where did you hear of C.A.T.S.? _____

Do not write below: _____

Ct. Pd. _____ Amt. _____ Membership No. _____

Ca. _____ Ck. _____

Ham Radio Network Information
OZK Net.. Wednesdays, 9p.m. local time; 14.345 MHz NV4F NCS
Eastern Regional Sinclair Net... Sundays, 1600 Z; 7.245 MHz
K0ZF NCS

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 2
P.M. in the large meeting room of the New Carrollton Branch
Public Library.

301#922-0767

The official contact person for CATS is JULES GESANG:

CATS is a non-profit special interest organization dedicated to
serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in
learning more about the Timex/Sinclair family of personal
computers.

Bladensburg, MD 20710

P.O. Box 725

Capitol Area Timex/Sinclair User's Group

Group is:

The mailing address of the Capitol Area Timex/Sinclair User's
Group is:

CATS Newsletter
P.O. Box 725
Bladensburg MD 20710



BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 40
RANDALLSTOWN, MD.

Next Meeting, Saturday, September 14, 2:00 PM
Don't forget the hardware meeting, 10:00 AM, same
day.

New Carrollton Public Library
7414 Riverdale Road, New Carrollton, MD

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF CATS. THIS IS THE ONLY ISSUE YOU WILL RECIEVE
Dues = \$15.00 per year, per family.

DATED MATERIAL